



FACT SHEET: Implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by Local Governments

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 (October 1, 2004- September 30, 2005) is a start up year for NIMS implementation. Full compliance with the NIMS is not required for you to receive FFY 2005 grant funds; however, local governments are encouraged to achieve full NIMS implementation during FFY 2005 to the maximum extent possible. Guidance concerning full NIMS implementation, required by October 1, 2006, will be released as indicated below. The following points do not represent all of the actions necessary to fully implement the NIMS; they do define all FFY 2005 NIMS compliance requirements:

❑ Completing the NIMS Awareness Course: "National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction" IS-700

This independent study course developed by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS and is the only NIMS training currently available. The course is available on-line at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/> and requires forty-five minutes to three hours to complete. IS-700 is not an Incident Command System course. We recommend, as a minimum, those persons responsible for the implementation and supervision of NIMS within the emergency services disciplines and government administration complete this training.

❑ Formally recognizing the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies

Local governments should establish legislation, executive orders, resolutions, or ordinances to formally adopt the NIMS. We recommend the adoption of NIMS be recorded in an official document. Consider one of the options mentioned as well as your Emergency Operations Plan or minutes of a city council/board of supervisors meeting. A resolution template is available.

❑ Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS)

Local jurisdictions must adopt the use of ICS (consistent with the concepts and principles taught by VDEM & DHS) across the entire response system. Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced ICS courses as well as ICS/EOC Interface are available from VDEM. Our training schedule may be found at www.vaemergency.com/train. We recommend citing the use of ICS within the NIMS adoption document, with language such as that found in the resolution template. Additionally, records of ICS training for emergency response personnel should be maintained. First responders should complete Basic ICS or level 100 & 200 ICS training; first responder supervisors should complete the latter and Intermediate ICS or level 300 ICS training; potential incident commanders should complete the three previously cited levels and Advanced ICS or level 400 ICS training.

❑ Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet and develop an implementation plan.

We recognize that local governments have already implemented many of the concepts and protocols identified in the NIMS. The NIMS Integration Center (NIC) was established by the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide strategic direction for and oversight of the National Incident Management System, supporting both routine maintenance and continuous refinement of the system and its components over the long term. The NIC has developed the NIMS Capability Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST), a web-based self-assessment system to evaluate incident response and management capabilities. This tool can assist in determining the extent to which you are already compliant, as well as identify the NIMS requirements that you are not currently meeting. NIMCAST is available for use at www.fema.gov/nimcast/index.jsp.

Federal preparedness assistance will be leveraged to complete NIMS implementation by FFY 2006 (October 1, 2005). To receive FFY 2006 (October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006) preparedness funding, the minimum FFY 2005 compliance requirements described above must be met. Applicants will be required to certify as part of their FFY 2006 grant applications that they have met the FFY 2005 NIMS requirements. By FFY 2007 (October 1, 2006), Federal preparedness assistance will be conditioned by full compliance with the NIMS. Additional information about NIMS requirements and resources for achieving compliance will be forthcoming from the NIC. The NIC web page, www.fema.gov/nims/nims.shtml, will be updated regularly with information about the NIMS and further guidance for implementation.

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